

Appln. No. 08/135,046
Amtdt. dated: January 22, 2004
Reply to Office Action of November 21, 2003
Attorney Docket No. 000594-125951

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method for the filling and treatment of a length of bagged material in a bag which comprises;
- mounting an open end of a large flexible bag and a gathered portion of the bag onto a tunnel portion of a bag filling machine, said tunnel portion having a tunnel exterior and tunnel interior defining a tunnel length and open tunnel end,
- A* filling the bag through the open tunnel end with material to be stored and treated during storage, said bag when filled defining a bag exterior wall and said filling including the progressive deployment of the gathered portion of the bag,
- during the bag filling process directing a perforated conduit ~~from through a feed tube mounted on the machine and through the open end of the bag into the material contained in the bag and spaced inwardly from the bag exterior wall, mounted on the tunnel and extended from the tunnel exterior to the tunnel interior and along a substantial length of the tunnel length, to emerge from the feed tube and thereby for placement of the conduit in the material filling the bag, and upon completed filling of the bag providing thereby a perforated conduit extended substantially through the entire length of the bagged material extending an end of the conduit exterior of the bag, and~~
- connecting the end of the conduit to a media source and flowing a media into and through the conduit to be passed through the conduit perforations and into the length of bagged material, and providing a vent in the bag in a spaced relation to the conduit

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perforations whereby media flow from the conduit to the vent induces media treatment of the bagged material.

2. (currently amended) A method for treatment of bagged material as defined in Claim 1 wherein the media is includes ambient air and the treatment provided thereby is for drying or moisturizing, and which method further includes forcing air from the media source through the bagged material and monitoring the moisture content of the material to determine the attainment of the desired moisture content.

3. (currently amended) A method as defined in Claim 2 which further includes providing an exhaust portal in the bag for exhausting air the media following treatment therewith of the material.

4. (original) A method as defined in Claim 3 wherein the bagged material is grain having a moisture content above 15%, and treating the grain while monitoring the moisture content to reduce the moisture content to at least 15%.

5. (original) A method as defined in Claim 1 which further includes placement of the filled portions of the bag in a fixed location and causing deployment of additional portions of the bag by moving the machine relative to the filled portion of the bag.

6. (currently amended) An apparatus for filling a large plastic bag with material to be stored and treated, ~~the filled bag including venting to the atmosphere and defining a bag exterior wall surrounding and confining said material, said apparatus comprising;~~



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a mobile machine including a materials receiving tunnel having an exterior and an interior and a delivery mechanism for delivering materials to the tunnel, said machine tunnel having a rear opening and structure surrounding said opening for receiving and deploying a large plastic bag to be filled with material to be stored and treated, said structure defining a bag opening with the bag received thereon and said delivery mechanism causing the delivered material to flow through said tunnel and bag opening interior and through said tunnel opening to be deposited into said bag, and

a feed tube mounted to the tunnel and extended from exterior of said tunnel and into and through a major length of the tunnel interior and as so mounted exterior of a bag mounted on said tunnel and into the tunnel, said feed tube defining a feed path for a perforated conduit for directing a said conduit provided with perforations along said feed tube and through the open end of the bag and rear opening of the tunnel for deployment thereof into the material in the bag as the bag is deployed from the tunnel in spaced relation to said bag exterior wall, the perforations in spaced relation to said venting, whereby the material in the bag is treated by forcing a media through the conduit and through the material in the bag followed by venting to the atmosphere.

7. (canceled)
8. (canceled)
9. An apparatus as defined in Claim 6 wherein multiple feed tubes are strategically positioned to distribute multiple perforated conduits through different cross sectional areas of the bag.
10. (canceled)

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11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

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Concluded